



## State of Wisconsin Homeland Security Council

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TO: Wisconsin Law Enforcement Agencies, Fire Departments, EMS, Volunteer Agencies, State Agencies, Congressional Delegation, Wisconsin State Legislature and Emergency Management Directors

FROM: Major General Al Wilkening, Wisconsin's Homeland Security Advisor

DATE: August 26, 2004

RE: Wisconsin's Preparedness Month

September 11<sup>th</sup> marks the third anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our nation. Since that dark day in our nation's history, much has been done to make sure we are better prepared to deter, prevent, respond, and recover from future possible attacks.

To help highlight Wisconsin's efforts to date, Governor Jim Doyle will proclaim the month of September as Preparedness Month. From September 9-12, 2004, there will be a series of events held in Wisconsin to showcase our preparedness efforts at both the state and local level.

Governor Doyle and the state's Homeland Security Council encourages your organization to take part in Preparedness Month by participating in local events, holding blood drives, or displaying your terrorism preparedness equipment. Below is a draft schedule of events:

**Thursday, September 9, 2004** – Governor Doyle and Wisconsin's Homeland Security Council will hold a press conference to launch Preparedness Month and to provide a summary of Wisconsin's Homeland Security efforts since 9-11. In addition, the Governor will announce a new initiative designed to make it easier for citizens to find opportunities to become involved in volunteer service and preparedness in their own communities.

**Friday, September 10, 2004** – Local and state emergency response agencies are encouraged to hold an open house or safety fair at their department, courthouse, or local facility to display new emergency response equipment and show their capabilities in local demonstration. Fire, law enforcement, EMS, hazmat teams, emergency management, and other response agencies are encouraged to jointly display some of their new preparedness equipment, including mobile command posts, equipment trailers, and communications gear. This is an excellent opportunity to show your community that you are ready to respond to all hazards – from tornadoes and chemical spills to terrorist events.

**Saturday, September 11, 2004** – This will be a day of reflection and of volunteerism. Many citizens will want to do something to remember those who lost their lives in the war on terrorism. We encourage volunteer groups such as the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, church groups, and search and rescue teams to hold blood drives, promote citizen corps and CERT training, put up displays about their organization, and hold open houses and other local events. We want to show how citizens can get involved, promote personal preparedness, and help our neighbors and our communities be ready.

**Sunday, September 12, 2004** – The Wisconsin National Guard will be showing its enhanced military capabilities during a demonstration of the National Guard Rapid Response Force (RRF) in Appleton.

If you have questions regarding the events or Preparedness Month, please contact LTC Tim Donovan at 608-242-3050 or Lori Getter at 608-242-3239. We know that everyone is busy this time of year, but Preparedness Month will be an excellent opportunity for all us to highlight the good work that we have been doing since 9-11 to ensure that we are prepared for the unexpected. I encourage you to take part in the campaign, and promote your agency and the important work that we all do to make sure Wisconsin is safe.